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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **SEGUELA et al.** Docket No.: 641050.90021
Serial No.: **Unassigned** Filed: **Concurrently herewith**
Int'l appln No.: **PCT/CA98/01016** Int'l filing date: **29 October 1998**
Title: **DNA ENCODING A HUMAN PROTON-GATED ION CHANNEL
AND USES THEREOF**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

bx C2

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- 16. A proton-gated cation channel having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a variant of that sequence having at least 85% identity therewith.
- 17. A channel according to Claim 16 which forms a homopolymeric channel.
- 18. A channel according to Claim 16 in combination with another cation channel sub-unit which together form a heteropolymeric channel.
- 19. A channel according to Claim 18 wherein the other cation channel belongs to the degenerin/ENaC channel superfamily.